CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZING INDICATORS

Primary criteria for prioritizing indicators (after Tegler et al. 2001). The prioritization scheme defines the rationale behind assigning a given value (1 through 5) to an indicator for each of the three primary criteria.

Primary Criteria	Explanation of Criteria	Prioritization Scheme
Management Significance	• supports management decision making • influences external decisions relevant to Park Management • satisfies legal mandates	1. direct application of the data to all three management stipulations 2. direct application of the data two of the three management stipulations 3. satisfies one of the three management stipulations 4. indirect or supportive application of the data to a management decision or legal mandate 5. data have limited value to making an informed decision about the resource
Ecological Significance	• addresses one or more environmental stressors or drivers • data may be related to an ecosystem moving out of its normal range of resilience that may lead to degradation • monitoring variable is sensitive and can provide an early warning • scientifically valid and accepted • integrates ecosystem stresses over space and time	1. indicator satisfies all five ecological significance stipulations for more than one stressor or driver 2. indicator satisfies all five ecological significance stipulations for one driver or stressor 3. indicator satisfies four of the five ecological significance stipulations, but methods may be untested or developing 4. indicator satisfies three of the five ecological significance stipulations, but methods may be undeveloped and the sensitivity is unreliable 5. limited use as an indicator
Cost Effectiveness	• sampling cost-effective, e.g. a relatively simple sampling method applied frequently or a more complex method	1. sampling and analysis techniques for the indicator are simple to perform, do not require specialized

	applied infrequently • sampling can be carried out by anyone with appropriate training and/or using a detailed guide	skills and are affordable 2. sampling and analysis techniques for the indicator are simple to perform and are affordable but require specialized skills 3. sampling and analysis techniques for the indicator are moderately complex and costs are marginal 4. sampling and analysis techniques for the indicator are complex or expensive 5. sampling and analysis techniques for the indicator are complex and very expensive